

REMARKS

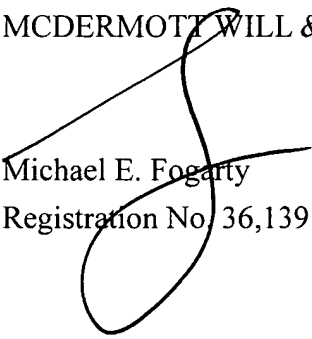
In the foregoing amendment, claims 6, 7, 16 and 17 have been cancelled, without prejudice, claims 1-5, 8-12, 14, 15 and 18 have been amended, and new claims 19-22 have been added in an effort to further clarify the subject matter of the claimed invention. No new matter has been added. Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

It is noted that a Petition to Make Special is being filed concurrently with the filing of the Preliminary Amendment.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required for entry of this Preliminary Amendment. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that Applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0417. A duplicate copy of this Response is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

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